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The Official National Organ of Phi Delta Kappa.

The Phi Delta Kappan

Continuing the National News Letter of Phi Delta Kappa

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From the National President

The details of the action of the last Council will be found in the minutes appearing in this number of the National Magazine, but a few outstanding points, some of which do not appear on the face of things, merit the special attention of the brothers.

1. The budget, instead of being the product of comparatively few minds, *i. e.*, of the Executive Committee, is the result of the joint efforts of the whole Council, and is entitled to correspondingly greater respect.

2. The Council itself was composed, with few exceptions, of men who were going back to their chapters, men able, therefore, to report at first hand what was done, why it was done, the reasons for certain evident compromises, why it was not always possible to vote as instructed, etc.

3. For the first time in the history of the Council since the Amalgamation meeting, the large majority of the chapters was represented; in fact, at at least one meeting, every chapter but one was represented, and that chapter was not represented at all. This point is perhaps worthy of elaboration. Heretofore it has been the custom for the Council to meet in connection with some

section of the N. E. A. This brot with it several evils. In the first place those men were chosen to represent the Chapter who were going to attend the N. E. A. anyway, that is, their interest in the chapter welfare was only secondary at best. In the second place, the men representing the chapter were often faculty men, pure and simple, who were not in touch, for the most part, with Chapter activities, and who could not vote intelligently on any question, and must necessarily vote exactly as instructed. And "voting as instructed," and "voting intelligently," are by no means synonymous. A line of action dictated by the interests of a certain chapter may conceivably run directly counter to the interests of a majority of the Chapters, or the Fraternity as a whole. What forms a problem in one Chapter, may never arise in another Chapter. Full and free discussion on the floor of the Council should therefore be permitted to modify the vote of a delegate if it seems best after such discussion that it should be modified. In the third place, even if the interests of the delegate were not entirely divorced from the interests of the Chapters, there would often be a conflict of interests, when for example a

particularly attractive speaker was to appear before the N. E. A. at the same time that a committee meeting was scheduled. I have personally known of a case where only one of three members of a committee appeared on the scene. At the last council the mornings were, with a single exception, devoted to Committee meetings, and Committees were kept busy, too, while afternoons and evenings were occupied by Council meetings, and even with the entire time given up to Fraternity business it was found necessary to extend the meeting for an extra session.

4. The magazine question I shall merely touch upon, leaving it to others who are more competent to deal fully with that question. I am convinced that some of those who came with the most strongly intrenched prejudices against a National Magazine in any form, left the Council among the most enthusiastic supporters. The question was discussed from all angles, and it is believed all objections in open Council were successfully met. May not the

plan now be given a fair trial and permitted to show its possibilities?

5. Finally, I want to appeal directly to the Chapters and men in the field to support loyally all the plans promulgated by the Council. It was the personal opinion of the writer that two of the members of the Executive Committee, the Secretary and Historian, should be continued in office, at least until the next Council meeting, because certain work begun by them could not be successfully completed by successors, at least, without the loss of a great deal that had already been done. The Council seemed to think it an advantage to have the entire Committee retained in office, because they had been working together and would work together more smoothly than a new set of officers. In order to make this possible, to enable constructive work to be done, there must be unfailing support, and we can then look for progress for P. D. K.

Fraternally yours,

F. W. SCHACHT,
National President.

The 1916 Council - At Long Range

Perhaps a few words of comment on the work of the 1916 Council by one who did not have the opportunity of attending, may not be amiss. It seems inevitable and entirely desirable, after the inauguration of as large a number of new policies of the first importance as were introduced into the working plans of the fraternity by the 1915 Council, that there should be a partial reaction. From the hasty perusal I have given to the proceedings of the 1916 Council it seems to me that the most important part

of its work is in tempering some of the provisions enacted a year previous, in the light of the experience gained in their execution. One such happy medium was struck in the new regulation providing for the status of faculty members. Under the new regulation both the chapters who feared faculty domination and those who felt a loss when their faculty members were disfranchised, should be satisfied.

I am glad that the national magazine has been placed upon a substantial finan-